

b1 cont  
A4 cont  
quantity indicative of an operating condition of said brake operating member and a vehicle running condition quantity indicative of a running condition of an automotive vehicle having a wheel which is braked by said brake cylinder; and

an assisting device for applying to said pressurizing piston an assisting drive force which is different than a primary drive force to be applied to said pressurizing piston on the basis of a brake operating force acting on said brake operating member, said assisting device being electronically controllable to control said assisting drive force,

and wherein said assisting device comprises an assisting drive force control device electrically operable to control said assisting drive force on the basis of said quantity detected by said sensing device.

3. (Once Amended) A hydraulically operated braking system according to claim 1, wherein said assisting device further comprises:

A5  
an assisting cylinder including an assisting piston operatively connected to said pressurizing piston, said assisting cylinder having an assisting pressure chamber which is partially defined by said assisting piston;

a high-pressure source;

a reservoir; and

a solenoid-operated pressure control valve device connected to said high-pressure source, said reservoir and said assisting pressure chamber, for selectively supplying the fluid from said high-pressure source to said assisting pressure chamber and returning the fluid from said assisting pressure chamber to said reservoir,

and wherein said assisting drive force control device includes a control valve control device for controlling said solenoid-operated pressure control valve device to control a pressure of the fluid in said assisting pressure chamber.

35. (Once Amended) A hydraulically operated braking system comprising:

A6  
a brake operating member operable by an operator;

a master cylinder including a cylinder housing and a pressurizing piston operatively connected to said brake operating member and cooperating with said cylinder housing to define a pressurizing chamber, said pressurizing piston being moved by said brake operating

member to pressurize a fluid in said pressurizing chamber;

a brake cylinder actuated by the pressurized fluid received from said master cylinder;

a sensing device for detecting a brake operating condition quantity indicative of an operating condition of said brake operating member; and

a master cylinder characteristic control device for controlling an amount of the fluid in said pressurizing chamber of said master cylinder, on the basis of said brake operating condition quantity, to thereby control a relationship between a position of said pressurizing piston relative to said cylinder housing and the fluid pressure in said pressurizing chamber, for controlling a fluid pressurizing characteristic of said master cylinder.

36. (New) A hydraulically operated braking system according to claim 1,

wherein said sensing device is operable to detect, as said brake operating condition quantity, at least one of a quantity corresponding to an operating amount of said brake operating member and a quantity corresponding to a rate of change of said operating amount, and said assisting drive force control device is operable to control said assisting drive force on the basis of said at least one of said quantities corresponding to said operating amount and said rate of change of said operating amount.

37. (New) A hydraulically operated braking system according to claim 36,

wherein said sensing device includes at least one of a force sensor for detecting a quantity corresponding to an operating force of said brake operating member and a stroke sensor for detecting a quantity corresponding to an operating stroke of said brake operating member, said assisting drive force control device is operable to control said assisting drive force on the basis of at least one of said quantities corresponding to said operating force and said operating stroke of said brake operating member.

38. (New) A hydraulically operated braking system according to claim 37,

wherein said assisting drive force control device is operable to control said assisting drive force on the basis of both of said quantities corresponding to said operating force and said operating stroke of said brake operating member.

39. (New) A hydraulically operated braking system according to claim 35,

wherein said sensing device includes at least one of a force sensor for detecting a quantity corresponding to an operating force of said brake operating member and a quantity corresponding to a stroke sensor for detecting an operating stroke of said brake operating member, and said master cylinder characteristic control device is operable to control the amount of the fluid in said pressurizing chamber of said master cylinder on the basis of at least one of said quantities corresponding to said operating force and said operating stroke of said brake operating member.

40. (New) A hydraulically operated braking system according to claim 39,

wherein said master cylinder characteristic control device is operable to control the amount of the fluid in said pressurizing chamber of said master cylinder on the basis of both of said quantities corresponding to said operating force and said operating stroke of said brake operating member.

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